

Brenham City Council Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, February 5, 2026 beginning at 1:00 PM in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Atwood Kenjura
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby
Councilmember Leah Cook
Councilmember Paul LaRoche
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Steve Soman
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

None

City of Brenham Staff Present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, Assistant City Manager Megan Mainer, City Secretary/Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger, General Manager of Public Utilities William Bissette, Director of Gas and Utilities Shawn Bolenbarr, Director of Water and Wastewater Jerry Saldivar, Director of Engineering Richard O'Malley, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg, Director of HR and Risk Management Susan Nienstedt, Fire Chief Mark Donovan, Police Chief Gary Boshears, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Economic & Community Development Director Teresa Rosales, Kyle Branham, Shauna Laauwe, Joanne Hynes, Gabriela Trejo, Casey Redman and David Cella

Citizens/Others Present:

Barbara Archer, Ken Miller

Media Present:

Jason May, Brenham Banner Press, and Josh Blaschke, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags — Councilmember Steve Soman**
- 3. Citizen Comments**

Barbara Archer addressed the City Council and requested the City Council provide answers to three questions: (1) How can the sandwich signs on the sidewalks in downtown be removed? She has a handicapped son and when they are downtown, she has to move the signs so that her son's wheelchair can continue on the sidewalk; (2) How does an ordinance get changed? and; (3) Who determines what types of businesses are allowed to open in Brenham?

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 4.a. Approve the Minutes from the January 8, 2026 and January 22, 2026 Regular City Council Meetings**
- 4.b. Approve a Payment of \$137,067.11 to Blackmon Mooring for Construction-Related Services Performed at 506 South Austin Street, Brenham, Texas Due to a Building Fire on October 29, 2025 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 4.c. Approve Resolution No. R-26-004 Authorizing the Submission of Grant Application No. 5806901 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant FY2027**
- 4.d. Approve Resolution No. R-26-005 Authorizing the Submission of Grant Application No. 5795901 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program, FY2027**
- 4.e. Approve a License Agreement Between the City of Brenham and the Vintage Farms Subdivision Owners Association Inc. for the Monument Sign Located in the Right-of-Way of the Vintage Farms Subdivision and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 4.f. Approve Resolution No. R-26-006 Adopting the Ice Cream Capital of Texas Brand Guide**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Consent Agenda Items 4.a. through 4.f.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC HEARING

- 5. Public Hearing and Discussion to Consider Amending Appendix A – “Zoning” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham Granting a Specific Use Permit to Allow an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District on Approximately 0.68 Acres of Land Located at 1307 Hidden Creek Lane, and Further Described as Lot 3A, Block 1, Sycamore Hill Subdivision, in Brenham, Washington County, Texas (SPCUSE-25-0014)**

Mayor Kenjura opened the Public Hearing at 1:06 p.m.

Shauna Laauwe, City Planner, presented this item. Laauwe explained that Dara Childs, the applicant, and Scott Bailey, the property owner, are requesting approval of a Specific Use Permit to construct a 16'x 20', 1-story (320 sq.ft.), detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU). The proposed detached ADU is intended to be utilized as either guest quarters or rental income. In addition to meeting the building codes and the requirements for structures and uses within the R-1 District, Section 10.02(4) of the Zoning Regulations lists six additional development standards for ADUs and the proposed ADU meets or exceeds each of the additional development standards.

Laauwe advised that no adverse impacts to adjacent properties or surrounding area are anticipated due to the proposed compatible residential use, site plan, and compliance with the additional development standards. Laauwe stated that on January 26, 2026, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the SUP request.

Mayor Kenjura closed the Public Hearing at 1:15 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

- 6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending Appendix A – “Zoning” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham Granting a Specific Use Permit to Allow an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District on Approximately 0.68 Acres of Land Located at 1307 Hidden Creek Lane, and Further Described as Lot 3A, Block 1, Sycamore Hill Subdivision, in Brenham, Washington County, Texas (SPCUSE-25-0014)**

Shauna Laauwe, City Planner, presented this item. Laauwe explained that this is a companion item to the Public Hearing for the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the R-1, Single-Family Residential District at 1307 Hidden Creek Lane to consider an

Ordinance on its first reading to approve the ADU.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending Appendix A – “Zoning” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham granting a Specific Use Permit to allow an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District on approximately 0.68 acres of land located at 1307 Hidden Creek Lane, and further described as Lot 3A, Block 1, Sycamore Hill Subdivision, in Brenham, Washington County, Texas (SPCUSE-25-0014).

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Award of Bid Related to the Brenham Family Park, Phase I Improvements, and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Dane Rau, Director of Public Works, presented this item. Rau stated that bids for the 32-acre Brenham Family Park were opened on November 21, 2025. This project began in 2013 when Ed and Evelyn Kruse donated over 100 acres to the City for the park and after many years of planning along with receiving a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant, we are now ready to award the bid for Phase I improvements.

Rau explained that five very reputable companies submitted bids and in order to have flexibility for consideration of the amenities, the bids were broken into a base bid and 7 alternates. The elements of the base bid include an amenity pond ranging from 2.5–3.5 acres, a 10’ walking and biking trail encompassing 1 mile which can be extended in future phases, a pedestrian bridge, wildflower areas, up to 32 parking spaces, a bathroom facility, and numerous lighting options. Alternate R was an added alternate which consists of path markings throughout the 1-mile 10’ concrete path to indicate bike and walking lanes.

Rau stated that MBC Management was the lowest bidder with a base bid of \$4,121,965.00 and \$15,000.00 for Alternate R. Rau stated that MBC Management has done work for the city in the past, so it is staff’s recommendation is to award the bid to MBC Management for a total of \$4,136,965.00 (Base Bid plus alternate R). Rau explained that funding for this project would come from the Brenham Community Development Corporation (\$2.4M), the city’s Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (\$1M),

and a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant, (\$750,000.00).

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Cook to award bid, including Alternate R, related to the Brenham Family Park, Phase I Improvements, to MBC Management in the amount of \$4,136,965.00, and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Change Orders 1 Through 5 and Final Payment to D. L. Meacham, LP Related to Jackson St Park, Phase 1, Improvements and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Dane Rau, Director of Public Works, presented this item. Rau stated that the Jackson Street Park, Phase 1, improvements have been completed. Rau explained that the improvements included four new pickleball courts, renovations to the northern restroom facility, park lighting upgrades, a new playground, sidewalk and ADA connectivity. Rau stated that the final payment to DL Meachum would be \$119,491.83 which includes several change orders amounting to \$13,955.83.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve Change Orders 1 through 5 and final payment to D. L. Meacham, LP. in the amount of \$119,491.58 related to Jackson St Park, Phase 1, improvements and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-26-007, Authorizing the Revision of Contract No. 22-085-049-D302 with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Related to the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-DR) Program

This item was passed; no action was taken on this item.

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Strand Associates, Inc. Related to the US 290-SH 36 Interchange Utility Relocations and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Shawn Bolenbarr, Director of Municipal Gas & Utility Services, presented this item. Bolenbarr explained that the City wishes to enter into a Professional Service Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc., for engineering services related to the US 290-SH 36 Interchange Utility Relocations in preparation for the 290 Cloverleaf Project being conducted by TXDOT in 2028.

Bolenbarr stated that the Agreement will consist of designing services, bidding services, and construction services for the relocation of approximately 58,000 linear feet of existing utilities and the removal of 2,400 linear feet of overhead electric lines. The cost for these services, as shown in the Agreement, will be an amount not to exceed \$1,260,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaRoche and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Brenham and Strand Associates, Inc. related to the US 290-SH 36 interchange utility relocations, in an amount not to exceed \$1,260,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Soman

Absent: None

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-26-008 Expressing Official Intent to Reimburse Certain Costs Related to Utility Projects

Julie Flagg, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item. Flagg explained that the

fees associated with the Professional Services Agreement with Strand Associates related to the US290-SH 36 Interchange utility relocation in the amount of \$1,260,000.00, will be funded with a future issuance of Certificates of Obligation.

Flagg stated that the Resolution allows the City the ability to reimburse certain costs related to this professional services agreement for engineering services related to utility projects from a possible 2027 and/or 2028 issuance of Certificates of Obligation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Soman to approve Resolution No. R-26-008 expressing official intent to reimburse certain costs related to utility projects and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

12. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-26-009 Approving an Interfund Loan from the Electric Fund to the Gas Fund, Water Fund, and Wastewater Fund for Professional Services

Julie Flagg, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item. Flagg explained that due to the timing of the start of the US 290 - Hwy 36 Interchange project, staff is requesting the approval of an interfund loan from the Electric Fund to the Gas Fund, Water Fund, and Wastewater Fund to cover expenditures for costs associated with the project.

Flagg stated that the Electric Fund currently has sufficient reserves available for the interfund loan and the loan would be for a maximum of \$1,260,000.00 and would be interest free.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve Resolution No. R-26-009 approving an interfund loan from the Electric Fund to the Gas Fund, Water Fund, and Wastewater Fund and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

13. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Strand Associates, Inc. for Engineering Services Related to Project No. 66C-21C (KC Lift Station) & Project No. 65C-62C (KC Force Main Replacement) and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Shawn Bolenbarr, Director of Municipal Gas & Utility Services, presented this item. Bolenbarr stated that the City wishes to enter into a Professional Service Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. for engineering services related to the KC Lift Station and the KC Force Main Replacement. The scope of work consists of design, bidding-related, and construction-related services for the Knights of Columbus lift station and force main replacement. Bolenbarr stated that this project is needed due to the growth in the Brenham Business Center and that this lift station is already at 100% capacity.

Bolenbarr explained that the project will consist of replacing the existing lift station with a new 500 gallon-per-minute lift station with electrical controls, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) integration, a quick connect for a portable emergency generator, and connections of the existing sanitary sewers and force main. The force main replacement includes installation of approximately 3,700 linear feet of six-inch force main pipe. The Agreement will be for an amount not to exceed \$305,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember Soman and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Brenham and Strand Associates, Inc. for engineering services related to Project No. 66C-21C (KC Lift Station) & Project No. 65C-62C (KC Force Main Replacement) in an amount not to exceed \$305,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

14. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Contract Between the City of Brenham and Motorola Solutions for the BRINC "Drone As A First Responder" (DFR) Takeoff Program Through the Texas Department of Information Resources Contract No. DIR-CPO-5433 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Gary Boshears, Police Chief, presented this item. Chief Boshears stated that for several years, the Brenham Police Department has operated an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) program to support a wide range of law-enforcement and public-safety operations. These operations include, but are not limited to, missing-person searches, security monitoring at large public events, crime-scene documentation, traffic-collision mapping, search-warrant support, and tactical operations. Chief Boshears stated that several of the Department's existing UAS platforms are approaching the end of their effective service life and present operational limitations.

Chief Boshears explained that the Department was offered the opportunity to participate in the BRINC "Drone as a First Responder" (DFR) Takeoff Program, in partnership with Motorola Solutions. This program provides a one-year, no-cost trial of the BRINC Responder UAS and Responder Station. This opportunity provides several operational enhancements over the Department's current UAS systems. These enhancements include the ability to remotely pilot the aircraft from a fixed station, automatic dispatch capabilities for designated calls for service, two-way audio communication with individuals on scene via an onboard speaker, and the ability to deploy emergency payloads such as naloxone (Narcan), epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens), personal flotation devices, and other lifesaving equipment when appropriate.

Chief Boshears explained that participation in the one-year Takeoff Program allows the Department to fully evaluate the operational value, effectiveness, and long-term feasibility of the Drone as a First Responder platform without any obligation to purchase or continue the service. At the conclusion of the trial period, the City may discontinue participation at no cost or elect to continue under a subscription model. If continued, the annual subscription cost is \$79,999.00 and would be incorporated into the Department's annual operating budget through the normal budget development and approval process.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby to approve a one-year, no cost, trial period contract between the City of Brenham and Motorola Solutions for the BRINC "Drone As A First Responder" (DFR) Takeoff Program through the Texas Department of Information Resources Contract No. DIR-CPO-5433 and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

15. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg reported on the increased cost of natural gas due to Winter Storm Fern (January 1-21, 2026). Flagg advised that due to this cost increase, citizens would see an increase in their residential gas bill.

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following:

- Special City Council Meeting on Monday, February 9th at 1:00 p.m.
- Black History Month Forum will be held every Monday in January at the Cannery Kithcen at 6:00 p.m.
- Fortnightly Book Sale runs from January 16 through January 21st at the Washington County Fairgrounds
- Next City Council meeting will be on Thursday, January 19th.

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura

Atwood C. Kenjura
Mayor



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary